

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

- -1. (Currently Amended) A hollow load bearing structural element extruded from a thermoplastic plastics material which is compounded so that the element has a flexural modulus of 4000 Mpa or above without external reinforcement.

2. (Original) An element as claimed in claim 1, which has a flexural modulus of 5500 Mpa or above.

3. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, which has a ratio of flexural modulus in Megapascals to density in kg/m^3 of at least 2.5:1.

4. (Original) An element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said ratio is at least 4.2:1.

5. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, which comprises from 30-90 wt% of thermoplastic polymer and 25-50 wt% of an elastic modulus increasing material.

6. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene, polypropylene or polyethylene terephthalate.

7. (Original) An element as claimed in claim 6, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is bi-axially oriented polypropylene.

8. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic plastics material is a recycled material.

9. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1 which contains glass fibres as an elastic modulus increasing material.

10. (Original) An element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the glass fibres have a length of at least 5 mm.

11. (Original) An element as claimed in claim 10, wherein the glass fibres have a length of 8-12 mm.

12. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 9 wherein the glass fibres are oriented in planes parallel to a load bearing surface thereof.

13. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, which has compounded with the thermoplastic plastics material at least one substance selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers.

14. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1 which has at least one substance selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers present in an outer layer which has a thickness of up to 1 mm.

15. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 14, wherein the outer layer is formed from thermoplastics plastic material containing the at least one substance and co-extruded with the remainder of the material forming said element.

16. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, which has a co-extruded outer layer which has anti-slip character.

17. (Previously Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compounded thermoplastic plastics material contains a coupling agent and/or a nucleating agent in amounts of from 1 to 3 wt% and 0.1 to 2 wt% respectively.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of providing access by foot to a main location to which access is required, which comprises providing access by foot to a first location and locating between the first location and the main location, so as to have an unsupported span existing between support positions, a platform structure which resists static and/or dynamic loading, characterized in that the platform structure is formed as a non-foamed thermoplastic plastics extrudate which is compounded so that the structure has a flexural modulus of at least 4000 Mpa, without external reinforcement.

19. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the compounded plastics extrudate has a flexural modulus of 5500 Mpa or above.

20. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the ratio of flexural modulus in Megapascals to density in kg/m³ of plastics material of the compounded plastics material is at least 2.5:1.

21. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said ratio is at least 4.2:1.

22. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the compounded plastics extrudate comprises from 30-90 wt% of thermoplastic polymer and 25-50 wt% of an elastic modulus increasing material.

23. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene, polypropylene or polyethylene terephthalate.

24. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the thermoplastic polymer

is bi-axially oriented polypropylene.

25. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic plastics material is a recycled material.

26. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the compounded plastics extrudate contains glass fibres as an elastic modulus increasing material.

27. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the glass fibres have a length of at least 5mm.

28. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the glass fibres have a length of 8-12 mm.

29. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the glass fibres are oriented in planes parallel to a load bearing surface of the compounded plastics extrudate.

30. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the plastics extrudate has at least one substance selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers compounded therein.

31. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the compounded plastics extrudate has at least one substance selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers present in an outer layer of the structure which has a thickness of up to 1 mm.

32. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the outer layer is formed from thermoplastic plastics material containing the at least one substance and co-extruded with the remainder of the material forming said structure.

33. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the structure has a co-extruded outer layer which has anti-slip character.

34. (Previously Added) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the compounded plastics extrudate contains a coupling agent and/or a nucleating agent in amounts of from 1 to 3 wt% and 0.1 to 2 wt% respectively. - -

(Previously Cancelled) claims 35 - 43 without prejudice.

--44. (Currently Added) A reinforced hollow load bearing structural element comprising: a hollow profile form by extruding ~~extruded from a non-foamed~~ thermoplastic plastics material, wherein said reinforcement of the structural element is provided by compounding the thermoplastic plastics material ~~which is compounded~~ so that the element has a flexural modulus of 4000 Mpa or above. --